

and other liberal Patent countries would soon approximate, were the great stimulus of wealth and honour removed from their inventors, by wiping out their liberal Patent Laws, which guarantee and secure to them these two great prime movers of intellectual and physical activities.

With the foregoing remarks applicable to the proposed alteration of the existing Patent Laws of Canada, in so far as they relate to the class of persons to whom Patents may be granted, we will now proceed to indicate the changes which may be advantageously made in the remaining sections of the Law, as given in the Consolidated Statutes of Canada, p.p. 419-432, following the sections in regular order.

SECTIONS 1 & 2.—To remain as at present.

SECTIONS 3 & 4.—To be altered to admit British subjects and foreigners to obtain Patents, whether residents in the Dominion or not. The total duration of Patents should be fourteen years, and not renewable for any additional term. If the invention is a good one, money enough can be made by the proprietor of the Patent in that time, and it should then become the property of the public.

It may be questionable, whether (in the event of the fees being raised) it would not be desirable to divide the total duration of the Patent, into, say, three stages, as in Great Britain.—1st, being three years—2nd of four years—and the last one seven years—a distinct fee being payable at the commencement of each period. This arrangement has been found to work very well in the mother country, and also in other countries. If the invention prove a valuable one, the Patent can be extended from term to term—on the other hand, if it be of little worth, the Patent may lapse at the expiration of the first or second term, and then be open to the public, the Patentee saving the balance of the total fee.

In France and many other European countries, an annual tax is paid for periods ranging from one to twenty-two years—the Patent becoming void if the annual fees are not paid at the proper time. This course causes much trouble, both to the Patentees and to the respective Patent offices, and it is thought the longer periods before mentioned are preferable in every respect.